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# Congressional Human Rights Caucus
## U.S. House of Representatives
## Washington, D.C. 20515

December 31, 1991

His Excellency Abdul Rachman Ramly
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
2020 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

As Co-Chairmen of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, we are writing to you out of deep concern for the people of East Timor. Directly following the massacre at Santa Cruz Cemetery of up to 100 mourners on November 12, 1991, we organized a Caucus hearing to investigate reports of serious human rights problems in East Timor. According to our information, human rights conditions in East Timor have continued to deteriorate since those tragic events.

We are encouraged by the preliminary report of the National Investigation Commission which recognizes that 50 Timorese were killed, a figure that is closer to eyewitness accounts of 75-100 or more. In addition, we understand that two generals, Maj. Gen. Sintong Pajnaitan and Brig. Gen. Rudolf Warouwhave, have been fired due to their involvement in the massacre. However there are major discrepancies between official and eyewitness accounts. According to first hand witnesses who submitted graphic testimony to the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, as well as information documented by internationally respected human rights organizations, the military acted according to a systematic plan and was not physically provoked. Nevertheless, we understand that the Commission maintains that the military fired into the procession of mourners spontaneously to protect themselves from the unruly crowd.

Despite the Indonesian government's public condemnation of the massacre, we have been receiving reports that human rights violations by the security forces have increased. We understand that the people in East Timor are still being subjected to death threats, beatings, and imprisonment -- with some being charged with subversion which is punishable by execution. In addition, we are told that the security forces have intensified their interrogations of individuals suspected of having dissident political views,

especially participants in the November 12 procession, senior figures in the Catholic Church, and young people in Dili. We also remain concerned that many relatives of individuals wounded on November 12 and members of the International Committee of the Red Cross have been denied access to the military hospitals where the wounded were taken.

These on-going violations of fundamental human rights in East Timor are outrageous and deeply distressing and could leave no alternative for the U.S. Congress but to cut its assistance to Indonesia and to review trade benefits granted to your country.

We hope you will closely investigate the brutal actions by security forces on November 12, 1991, account for the victims of the massacre and respond to reports of ongoing human rights violations occurring in East Timor. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Tom Lantos

John Edward Porter
Co-Chairman

Tom Lantos
Co-Chairman